

Remarks

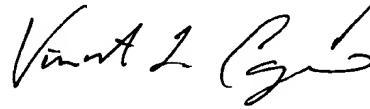
Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 4-33 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 14 being independent claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 is patentable since the claimed coating composition is capable of coating a substrate without a base or primer layer, and involves the silicon atom of the silane-biopolymer complex directly adhering to the substrate (see page 7, paragraph 33 of the specification). Additionally, new claim 14 is patentable for the same reasons discussed in Applicants' remarks in the Amendment and Reply filed October 18, 2002. Therefore, dependent claims 4-13 and 15-33 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 14 are patentable.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent L. Capuano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Version with markings to show changes made

Please substitute the following claim 1 for the currently pending claim 1:

1. (Twice amended) A coating composition comprising [consisting essentially of] the product of the reaction of:

a silane having at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of an isocyanate, an isothiocyanate, an ester, an anhydride, an acyl halide, an alkyl halide, an epoxide and an aziridine; and

a biopolymer,

wherein said product is capable of directly coating a surface of a substrate by covalent attachment of said silane to said substrate.

Claims 14-33 are new.